



National Commission on the Future of the Army
2530 Crystal Drive, Zachary Taylor Building, Suite 5000
Arlington, VA 22202

SUBJECT: National Commission on the Future of the Army (NCFA) Minutes from the Fayetteville, NC Open Meeting

Date: 10 June 2015

Time: Meeting called to order at 0805 Hours; adjourned at 0950 Hours

Location: Embassy Suites, Fayetteville, NC

Attendees:

Commissioner Carter F. Ham, Commission Chairman
Commissioner Thomas R. Lamont, Commission Vice Chairman
Commissioner Robert F. Hale
Commissioner Jack C. Stultz
Mr. Don Tison, Designated Federal Officer
MG (Ret) Ray Carpenter, NCFA Executive Director

Attendees: In accordance with the provisions of Public Law 92-463, the meeting was open to the public from 9:00 A.M. to 12:04 P.M. There were approximately 90 members of the public present for this event.

Documents Submitted to Commission: Written statements from the offices of Senator Thom Tillis, Representative David Price, and Representative Richard Hudson.

Speakers:

Chairman Ham opened the meeting by welcoming the attendees to the meeting and briefly discussed the Commission's charter. Mr. Tison gave an explanation of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA) and discussed ground rules for the registered speakers. Commissioner Ham introduced the Commission members, conducted a recap of the North Carolina trip Day 1 meetings/site visits and gave an overview of the Day 2 planned meetings/site visits. Commissioner Lamont discussed an overview of the Hawaii trip. Following these opening remarks, the Commission heard from the following speakers, in order of appearance:

1. Ms. Kim Barnes, spokesperson for Senator Thom Tillis, R-NC.

Senator Tillis' statement highlighted the history and accomplishments of the Fayetteville/Fort Bragg area. The statement highlighted that 1 in every 9 North Carolinians is a veteran.

2. Mr. Jack Rostetter, Chief Executive Officer, Fayetteville Regional Chamber of Commerce.

Mr. Rostetter discussed the importance of Fort Bragg to Fayetteville and the region.

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3. Mr. Steve Mannell, Chairman, Fayetteville Regional Chamber of Commerce Military Affairs.

Mr. Mannell discussed the relationship of Fort Bragg and Fayetteville locally, regionally and nationally. He also discussed implications of current and future budgets and Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) actions.

4. Mr. Rodney Maddox, Chief Deputy Secretary, North Carolina Secretary of State.

Mr. Maddox was speaking on behalf of Secretary Marshall. He discussed the North Carolina National Guard's State Partnership Program initiatives, specifically their military to military and also civilian to civilian partnerships developed with the Republic of Moldova and Botswana. Commissioner Lamont commented on the State Partnership Programs' value and success.

5. Mr. Ted Vorhees, Fayetteville City Manager.

Mr. Vorhees opened his remarks by commenting on the powerful message sent by our Government by having a Commission to ask the public and its communities about the future of our Army. He spoke of the importance of Fort Bragg to Fayetteville and sequestration's effect on current budget uncertainties. He stated that the City of Fayetteville understands the military community and has unique capabilities that can serve Fort Bragg with municipal services (he used public transit as an example). He also discussed that having National Guard and Army Reserve units around the country helps connect the military with local communities.

6. Mr. Mike Moose, Reserve Officers' Association.

Mr. Moose stated he was speaking specifically about the US Army Reserve in his statement. He discussed the importance of an operational reserve to the total force. The USAR must stay a viable part of the Army Total Force Policy. The USAR and Army National Guard must retain their importance. Commissioner Stultz commented that the USAR's capabilities have increased over the last 14 years of war; we have better integration of components and can't lose that integration.

7. Mr. Jimmy Keefe, Cumberland County Commissioner.

Mr. Keefe stated that this hearing was an appropriate opportunity to 'tell our story.' He stated that approximately half of the County's leaders are former military members and have a connection to the Fort Bragg military community. He discussed some Cumberland County military outreach initiatives, namely, a veterans-only court, a military liaison with the Mental Health Alliance, and the Fayetteville Technical Community College's outreach to veterans.

8. Imam Eronomy Mohammed Smith, private citizen.

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Imam Smith served as a member of the NC Legislative Black Caucus, Raleigh. He discussed the importance of Fort Bragg to Fayetteville and the growth and development of the area, citing many infrastructure projects such as roads, bridges and I-295.

9. MG (Ret) Rodney Anderson, private citizen.

MG (Ret) Anderson spoke of the many opportunities in and around Fort Bragg and Fayetteville for business, education, the arts, and families. He stated that Fayetteville and Fort Bragg are beyond 'about right' (a reference to his time serving on Army headquarters' staffs); they are 'all right!'

10. Mr. Asher Hildebrand, spokesperson for Representative David Price, D-NC.

Representative Price's statement noted that any recommendations regarding future capability are based on long term mission requirements and not on short term budgetary pressures.

11. Mr. Tad Davis, private citizen.

Mr. Davis previously served as Garrison Commander, Fort Bragg and Command Executive Officer, US Army Reserve Command. He discussed mobilization and demobilization and stated that we've learned important lessons over the past years; lessons that can't be lost. He also discussed his opinion of opportunities to privatize certain activities on post, using barracks as an example.

12. Mr. Chris Carter, spokesperson for Representative Richard Hudson, R-NC.

Representative Hudson's statement noted current threats facing our nation and the fact that it is vital that we create and maintain a strong system for defense, both within our borders and abroad. He also stated that the Airborne paratroopers and Special Operations forces at Fort Bragg are critical to our national defense apparatus and are often the first response worldwide.

13. CW5 Rick Comer, North Carolina National Guard.

CW5 Comer is an Army National Guard aviator with over 30 years experience as an Army aviator. He discussed the benefits of National Guard aviation experience and aspects of the Aviation Restructure Initiative (ARI).

Commissioner Ham closed the meeting by thanking all in attendance for their participation and interest in the work of the Commission. The meeting was adjourned at 0950 Hours.